

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims as shown above with additions underlined and deletions with strikethrough.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended the specification to correct a minor typographical error. Page 17, line 13 now contains the serial number and filing date of the co-pending application. This amendment is clerical in nature and does not introduce new matter, and its entry is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 and 175-179 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirements.

As per the request of the Examiner, the Applicants have amended the claims as follows: line 3 of claim 1 and line 3 of claim 176 have been amended to contain the phrase “fiber bundles” after “helically organized”. As suggested by the Examiner, the word “silk” has been changed to “silkworm” throughout the claims. The word “fibers” has been inserted after “fibroin” in line 2 of claim 3 and “fibers” has been deleted at the end of this line. Finally, as requested by the Examiner, “silk” been replaced with “the sericin-extracted fibroin fibers” in claim 4, 5, and 6 and claim 2 has been cancelled. The amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter, and their entries are respectfully requested.

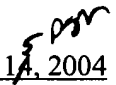
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested. Should there be any question concerning this response or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Conditional Petition for Extension of Time

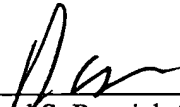
This conditional petition is being filed along with the accompanying Amendment and provides for the possibility that Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for a fee for extension of time.

If any extension of time for the accompanying response is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefore.

The Examiner is authorized to charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments associated with this submission to the Nixon Peabody LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0850.

Date: June 14, 2004 

Respectfully submitted,



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